

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 5-11 and 21, and ADD new claim 24, in accordance with the following:

1-4. (CANCELED)

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of analyzing three-dimensional structures including a first structure expressed by three-dimensional coordinates of elements belonging to a first point set and a second structure expressed by three-dimensional coordinates of elements belonging to a second point set, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a) generating, by a superposition calculating unit, -a combination of correspondence satisfying a ~~restriction~~-condition between the elements belonging to the first point set and the elements belonging to the second point set from among all candidates for the combination of correspondence; and

b) calculating, by the superposition calculating unit, a root ~~means~~ mean square distance between the elements belonging to the first point set corresponding to the elements belonging to the second point set in the combination of correspondence generated in ~~the step a)~~the generating; and

c) displaying, by a graphic display unit, the three-dimensional structures of the first structure and the second structure in an overlapped manner based on the calculating.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of claim 5, wherein the ~~restriction~~-condition includes order relation of the elements in the first and the second point sets that are ordered.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of claim 5, wherein the ~~restriction~~-condition includes proximity in a geometric relationship among a plurality of elements close to each other.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of claim 6 wherein the ~~restriction~~-condition includes proximity in a geometric relationship among a plurality of elements close to each other.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of claim 5, wherein the ~~restriction~~ econdition includes a condition such that a candidate for the combination of correspondence satisfies a threshold value condition.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of claim 6, wherein the ~~restriction~~ condition includes a condition such that a candidate for the combination of correspondence satisfies a threshold value condition.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of claim 5, wherein the ~~restriction~~ condition includes a condition such that an attribute value of each of the elements belonging to the first point set coincides with an attribute value of the corresponding element belonging to the second point set in a candidate for the combination of correspondence.

12-20. (CANCELED)

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for analyzing three-dimensional structures including a first structure expressed by three-dimensional coordinates of elements belonging to a first point set and a second structure expressed by three-dimensional coordinates of elements belonging to a second point set, comprising:

~~means for a~~ superposition calculating unit generating a combination of correspondence satisfying a ~~restriction~~ condition between the elements belonging to the first point set and the elements belonging to the second point set from among all candidates for the combination of correspondence; ~~and~~

~~means for, and~~ calculating a root mean square distance between the elements belonging to the first point set corresponding to the elements belonging to the second point set in the combination of correspondence ~~generated by the generating means; and~~

a graphic display unit displaying the three-dimensional structures of the first structure and the second structure in an overlapped manner based on the calculating.

22-23. (CANCELED)

24. (NEW) The method of claim 6, wherein the condition includes a condition such that an attribute value of each of the elements belonging to the first point set coincides with an attribute value of the corresponding element belonging to the second point set in a candidate for

Serial No. 09/910,054

combination of correspondence.